



Center for Aerospace Structures  
Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences  
University of Colorado at Boulder



Structural Mechanics Branch  
NASA Langley Research Center

# ***A Theoretical Basis for Microdynamic Design and Analysis***

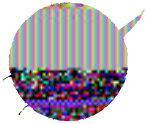
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## ***Presentation Objectives***

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- Propose a Specification of Microdynamic Exceedance Modes for Precision Structures

*Loads*

*Manifestations*

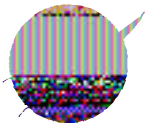
*Design, Analysis and Verification*

- Theoretical Exceedance Analysis Examples

*IPEX Boom ("Mode 1 Exceedance Assessment")*

*SIM Hexapod ("Mode 3 Exceedance Assessment")*

*Microdynamic Exceedance Modes provide a logical framework for discriminating phenomena and developing design requirements and specifications*



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## ***Structural Design Practice Provides an Important Precedent for Defining Microdynamic Design Principles***

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- Example: Structural Fatigue and Failure Analysis
  - Identifies and specifies failure modes  
*Mode 1 Fatigue Failure*
  - Identifies and specifies analysis requirements to assess these failure modes in a design  
*K1 Stress Concentration Factor*
- Analyses are part of standard finite element codes (e.g. Abacus)  
*Lead directly to design analysis and verification specifications*

*How Do We Define Microdynamic  
Exceedance Modes?*

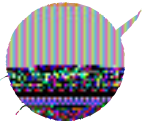
*This is the First Step to Developing Microdynamic  
Requirements and Specifications*



## ***Microdynamics are “Interesting” if and only if ...***

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- The response of the structure
  - Disagrees with what an “known model” would predict AND is relevant to the system requirements
  - Is outside that which can be “accommodated” by a controller
- What is NOT interesting
  - Poorly measured “linear” environmental effects
  - A response which can be “precisely predicted” by a linear, identified model
  - A response that can be rejected by a controller
- But do not assume
  - Only “nonlinear” microdynamics are significant; controllers may have problems with linear microdynamics too
  - Anything not predicted or not expected is “new physics”

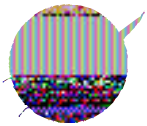


## ***Definition of a ‘Microdynamic Exceedance Mode’***

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*A Microdynamic Exceedance Mode is a load condition that results in a mission relevant, anomalous response at or below a microstrain of motion.*

*Microdynamic Exceedance Modes are distinguished by their load levels, their manifestations, and their design solutions.*



## ***Proposed ‘Microdynamic Exceedance Modes’***

*Mode 1 Microdynamic Exceedance: Gross Sliding*

*Mode 2 Microdynamic Exceedance: Macroscopic Stick-Slip*

*Mode 3 Microdynamic Exceedance: Non-Conforming Interface  
Microslip*

*Mode 4 Microdynamic Exceedance: Roughness-Induced Microslip*



## ***Mode 1 Microdynamic Exceedance: Gross Sliding***

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- Loads

*Average absolute shear stress across mechanism interfaces exceeds averaged Coulombic normal stress*

- Manifestations

*Permanent structural shape changes*

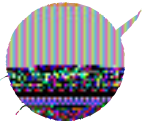
*Momentary high velocity impulse*

*Harmonic distortion effects; chaotic dynamics*

- Design, Analysis and Verification

*Analyze structural loads and stresses and compare to Coulombic limit*

*Design structure and/or spacecraft loading conditions to not exceed the Coulombic limit*



## ***Mode 2 Microdynamic Exceedance: Macroscopic Stick-Slip***

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- Loads

*Average absolute shear stress in mechanism interfaces is near the Coulombic limit and the strain rate exceeds the Stribeck limit*

- Manifestations

*Classical stick-slip behavior ( a.k.a “Static vs Dynamic Friction”)*

*Mode 1 effects PLUS persistent response to quasi-static loading*

- Design, Analysis and Verification

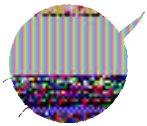
*Analyze structural loads and compare to Coulombic limit*

*Analyze dynamic strain rates and compare to Stribeck limit*

*Design structure and loading conditions to not exceed the Coulombic limit or the Stribeck limit*

*Possible design modifications of mechanisms to avoid effects leading to instability of friction coefficient*





## ***Mode 3 Microdynamic Exceedance: Non-Conforming Interface Microslip***

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- Loads

*Static or dynamic loads in non-conforming joint interfaces that are below Mode 1 and Mode 2 levels; No known lower limit*

- Manifestations

*Deployment imprecision*

*Microlurch and Equilibrium Zone (Warren Ph.D.)*

*Hysteresis and damping*

*Possible harmonic distortion in vibration response*

- Design, Analysis and Verification

*Analyze coupled structure-mechanism model for harmonic distortions*

*Analyze for deployment precision*

*Design structure and mechanisms using*

*“Load Path Management” (Hachkowski Ph.D.)*



## ***Mode 4 Microdynamic Exceedance: Roughness-Induced Microslip***

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- Loads

*Static or dynamic loads in conforming joint interfaces that are below Mode 1 and Mode 2 levels; No known lower limit*

- Manifestations

*Deployment imprecision*

*Microlurch and Equilibrium Zone (Warren Ph.D.)*

*Hysteresis and damping*

*Viscoelastic response*

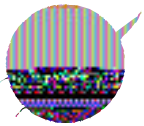
*Transient shear load-displacement response*

*Possible harmonic distortion and instabilities in vibration response*

- Design, Analysis and Verification

*Mode 3 approaches*

*Only moderate confidence in existing models (Hinkle Ph.D.)*



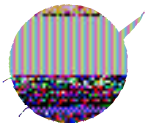
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## ***‘Mode N’ Microdynamic Exceedance: Unknown Effects (Research Topics)***

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- Research should continue to look for other exceedance modes
- Possible sources:
  - Materials (composites and metal alloys)
  - Cables (probably analyze using Mode 1 through Mode 4 protocols)
  - Actuators and sensors
  - Bonded joints
- But Note:

*We have no conclusive evidence that these exceedance modes or others exist, and in some cases we have (incomplete) data to the contrary ...*



## *How do we address “Un-modeled Linear Microdynamic Exceedance Modes?”*

- Recall

*Do not confuse an unexpected response with “new physics.”*

- Challenge:

*Microdynamic experiments are at very small strain levels*

*Damping approaches material limits*

*Results in very high sensitivity of the structural response to thermal, mechanical and environmental loads*

- An un-modeled entirely linear effect can appear to be a microdynamic exceedance mode

*A propagating disturbance can cause a high response simply from linear dynamic response*

*(E.g., “thermally induced” vibrations in solar arrays)*

*Microdynamicists should always consider the possibility of a purely linear mechanism explaining the data*



## ***Microdynamic Regimes Based on Stress Magnitudes and Rates***

- Scaling partially driven by interface surface roughness
- Generally ...

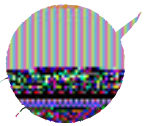
*Mode 1 - above 10 microstrain in the joints*

*Mode 2 - above 10 microstrain per second in the joints (ill-defined in the literature)*

*Mode 3 - Nanostrain to microstrain*

*Mode 4 - Nanostrain to microstrain*

*Modes 3 and 4 Exceedances are the Subject of Theoretical and Experimental Research Because Little Data is Available at these Small Strains*



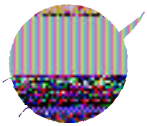
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## ***Implications for Future Missions***

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- We can use this framework to discriminate potential problems at the system design level and at the component design level
- Example: Scaling and the Effect of Structural Dimension on Microdynamics
- Large structures --> Large inertias --> Larger maneuver loads  
*Leads to increased induction loads for all 4 exceedance modes*
- Large structures --> Lower stiffness  
*Leads to more compliance in the manifestation (responses) to the exceedance modes*

*Good microdynamic design practice will lead naturally to a high stiffness to mass ratio.*



## ***Examples of Theoretical Microdynamic Exceedance Mode Analyses***

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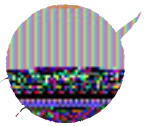
- Consider two Example Analyses

*IPEX Boom ("Mode 1 Exceedance Assessment")*

*SIM Hexapod ("Mode 3 Exceedance Assessment")*

- Model using linear structural finite element model coupled to nonlinear mechanism model

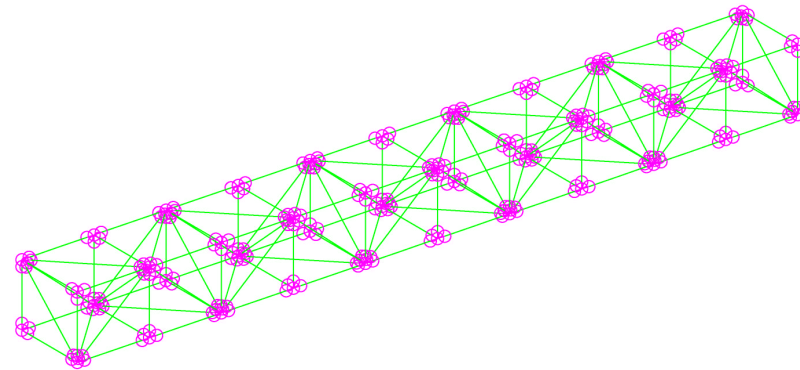
*Where needed, use physical mechanism models, not empirical (i.e., "Dahl" models)*



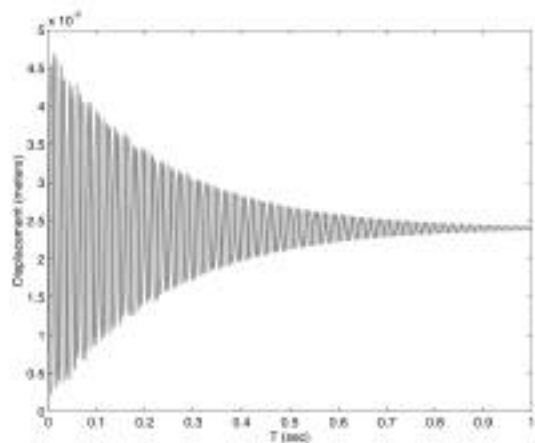
## ***IPEX Boom “Mode 1” Exceedance Analysis***

- Simulate slippage in selected joint using an enforced “gross slippage” in a selected joint
- Compare response with acceptable Mode 1 exceedance criteria (TBD)

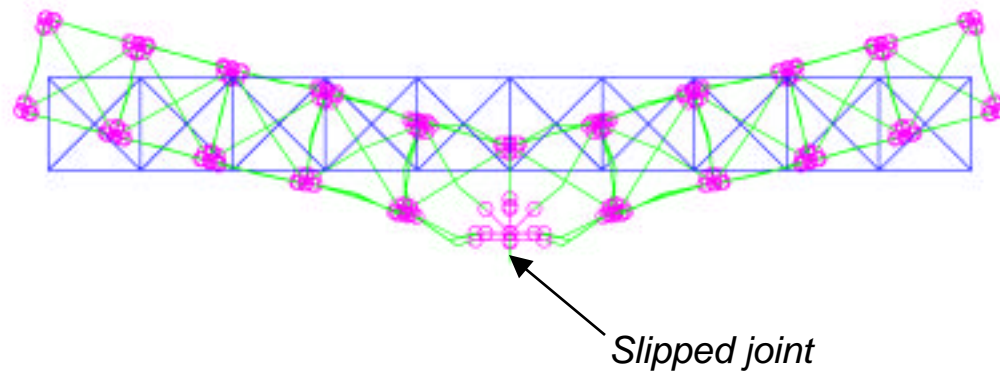
*FE Model*



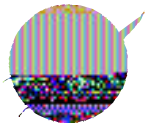
*Simulated Response*



*Mode 1 Exceedance*







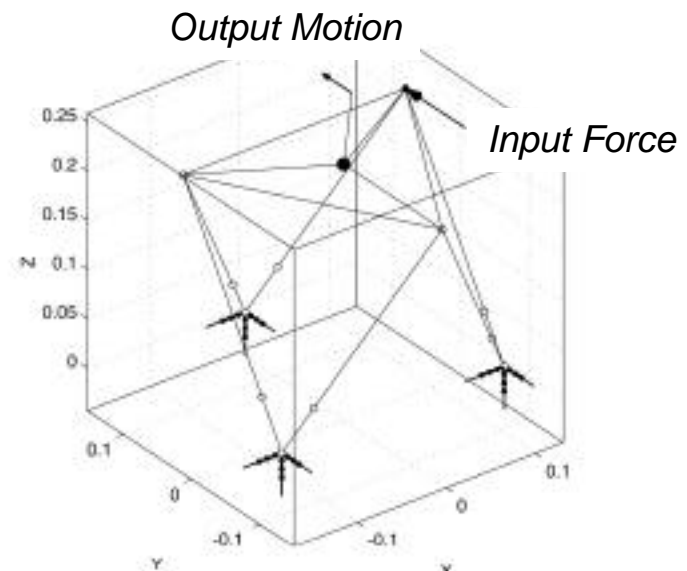
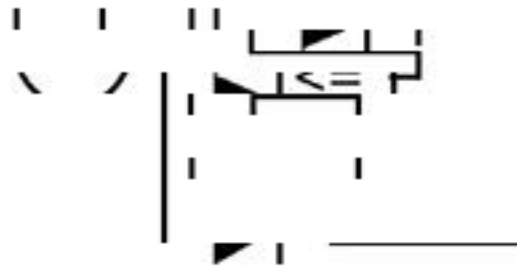
## ***SIM Hexapod Mode 3 Exceedance Analysis***

- Use coupled structure-mechanism model to assess dynamic response

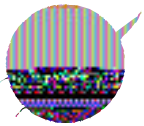
*Look for Microlurch  
and Harmonic  
Distortion effects*

- Model implemented in  
MATLAB and SIMULINK

### ***FE Model***



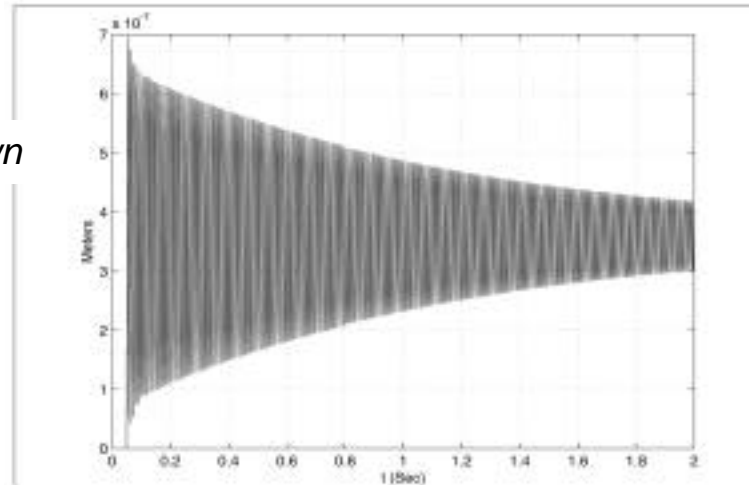




## ***Simulation Shows Improved Response with No Apparent Higher Harmonics Related to the Mode 3 Exceedance***

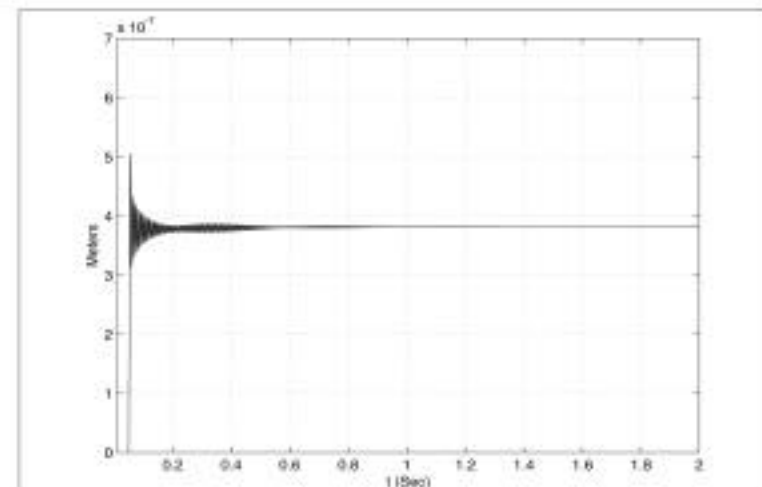
### *Linear Response*

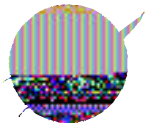
*Mechanisms Locked Down*



### *Nonlinear Microdynamic Response*

*Mechanisms Providing Damping*





## *Where from Here*

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- Codify what we know into design guidelines and specifications
  - How to Design
  - How to Specify
  - How to Verify
- Apply theoretical modeling as best we can
  - Focus on Exceedance Mode Analysis principles*
  - Focus on Exceedance Mode Verification principles*
- Keep looking for what we don't know but suspect
  - Mission-relevant anomalies
  - Controller-confounding anomalies
  - Ground-orbit disagreement

*Microdynamics Can be Designed, but Not Ignored.*